# TRADEMARK REGISTRATIONS, 1897-1983

# DIVISION OF SERVICES TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# **Record Group 225**

### Processed by:

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#### INTRODUCTION

Record Group 225 contain the records of trademark registrations for the State of Tennessee, from the year 1897 to 1983. These records encompass 104 volumes and two boxes of loose materials. These records were shipped to the State Library and Archives from the Corporations Division, Tennessee Department of State, and are located on the second floor stack. In 1996, two additional volumes was received from the State Records Center.

These state agency records fall under the guidelines of records disposition authorization number 1764. Analysis of said records by the Archives staff indicate that due to the historical nature of these records, they will be maintained at the TSLA as a permanent collection.

The extent of this record group is 29 cubic feet.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

A trademark is any word, name, symbol or device or any combination thereof, adopted and used by a person or corporation to identify goods made or sold by him and to distinguish them from goods made or sold by others (TCA 47-25-201). Any copying or duplication of this trademark is an infringement on any registrations of such trademark.

Record Group 225 contain business trademarks registered with the State of Tennessee from 1897 to 1983. These registrations are kept by the Secretary of State, and are effective for a term of ten years. By law, the Secretary of State maintains these trademark registrations (either registered or renewed) for public examination according to TCA 47-25-207.

In order for a trademark to be registered in Tennessee, the applicant must:

- Provide a name and business address of the person applying for a trademark registration, or if a corporation, must indicate the state of incorporation.
- Provide information on the goods or services in connection with which the mark is used; the mode
  or manner in which the trademark is used in connection with such goods or services; and the class in
  which such goods or services fall into.
- Provide the date when the trademark was first used anywhere and the date first used in the state by the applicant or predecessor in business.
- Produce a statement that the applicant is the owner of the trademark and that no other person has the right to use such trademark in this state either in the identical form or in such near resemblance as might be calculated to deceive or to be mistaken thereafter.

A Certificate of Registration for a Trademark in Tennessee must show:

- The name and business address, or the state of incorporation.
- The date claimed for the first use of the trademark anywhere and in Tennessee.
- Specify the class of goods and services, and description of goods and services on which the trademark will be used.
- Produce a reproduction of the trademark.
- Specify the incorporation date.
- Indicate the term of the registration.

Upon compliance with the terms for a certificate of registration to be issued, the applicant must sign the registration, have the signature verified by a notary public, and pay a filing fee with the Secretary of State's Office.

The records contained in Record Group 225 constitute a historically significant collection of trademark registrations, documenting the economic history of this state and the United States during the twentieth century. Many major corporate trademarks (such as Ford Motor Company, Quaker Oats, Coca-Cola) are found in this collection, as well as local businesses, many of which existed only a brief time.

These records are found in large bound volumes. From the years 1897 to 1977, the volumes begin with an index, which is alphabetical by product name. The record group has been microfilmed in the interests of historic preservation, and to serve the needs of the Tennessee Department of State, Division of Services.

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